

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
U.S. Application No.: 10/070,125

PATENT APPLICATION  
Atty. Docket No.: Q68763

**REMARKS**

**I. Rejection of Claims 11 – 17 and 20 – 26 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 11 – 17 and 20 – 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious in view of US 6,312,106 to Walker and US 5,567,063 to Chiu. For the following reasons this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As recited by Applicant's independent claims 11 and 20, the communication unit (or communication circuit) includes a single antenna which communicates with a plurality of storage elements (or memories) provided in a plurality of detachable ink containers. Communication occurs in Applicant's claimed invention not only when the ink containers are mounted on a carriage, but also when the ink containers are not loaded to the carriage, provided that the storage element (or memory) is brought close to the communication unit. At least these features are absent in the Walker and Chiu references, as explained below.

Walker is silent as to the feature of any communication circuit (or communication unit) including a single antenna which can communicate with a plurality of storage elements (or memories). Rather, Walker describes a plurality of links 42 (not a single link) being mounted on the printer portion 12 so that the links 42 correspond to links 38 of the ink containers 18, respectively. That is, Walker (at column 4, lines 45 – 54) sets forth that each ink cartridge has its own radio linking device, including a link 38 in each ink container 18 which corresponds to its own link 42. Multiple links 38 and 42 are also depicted in Figures 2 and 3.

In brief, Walker fails to teach or suggest a single antenna which communicates with a plurality of storage elements (or memories) as recited by Applicant's claims 11 and 20, let alone

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a plurality of storage elements while mounted or not mounted to a carriage. While Walker describes (from line 63 of column 3 to line 1 of column 4) that the ink container 18 may be mounted on the scanning carriage 22, Walker is deficient in teaching or suggesting that there is communication between the link 38 and the link 42 of the printer 12 when the ink containers 18 are actually mounted on the carriage 22. For example, Figure 6 of Walker shows that the ink container 18 is mounted on the ink container receiving station 24 (not the carriage 22) of the printer 12. Indeed, Walker is completely silent regarding the link 42 communicating with the link 38 of the ink container 18 when the ink container 18 is either loaded or not loaded to the carriage 22 of the printer 12.

Chiu is also completely silent regarding a communication unit (or circuit) including a single antenna which can communicate with a plurality of storage elements (or memories). Additionally, Chiu is completely silent regarding whether the antenna 41 (as shown in Fig. 3C) can communicate with an antenna of an ink container when the ink container is not loaded on the carriage.

The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection, as the Walker and Chiu references are deficient.

## **II. Rejection of Claims 18 – 19 and 27 – 28 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 18 – 19 and 27 – 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious in view of Walker, Chiu and US 2002/0015066 A1 to Siwinski. For the following reasons this rejection is respectfully traversed.

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As noted above in Part I, above, Walker and Chiu are deficient. Siwinski perpetuates these deficiencies, as explained below.

Siwinski is completely silent regarding any type of communication unit (or circuit) including a single antenna which can communicate with a plurality of storage elements (or memories). Rather, Fig. 2 of Siwinski describes that a plurality of antennas 56a-d correspond to a plurality of ink reservoirs 14a-d. Moreover, Siwinski is completely silent about the antennas 56a-d communicating with the transponders 54a-d of the ink reservoirs 14a-d when the ink reservoirs are not loaded to a carriage.

The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection, as Walker, Chiu and Siwinski are deficient.

### III. Conclusion


As apparent from the foregoing, it is impossible to arrive at the present invention even when the cited references are combined, thereby failing the mandate of M.P.E.P. § 2143.03 (which sets forth that a proper § 103 rejection must include all of Applicant's claim limitations). Because the Examiner's citation of art fails to teach or suggest all of Applicant's claim limitations (as described above in Parts I and II), reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office this 9th day of February, 2005.



Mariann Tam